

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCI-06 SCEM-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 TAR-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 FPC-01 OPIC-12

XMB-07 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /197 W

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R 120002Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2305

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2988

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: DEFEAT OF NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION ON ENERGY

REF: OTTAWA 2956

1. AS EXPECTED, PROGRESSIVE-CONSERVATIVE MOTION "THAT THIS HOUSE HAS LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT DUE TO ITS INCOMPETENT, INCONSISTANT AND VACILLATING ENERGY POLICY WHICH IS BRINGING ECONOMIC LOSS TO CANADA AND HARDSHIP TO THE CONSUMING PUBLIC" WAS DEFEATED , 135 TO 117, IN COMMONS DEC 10. NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) SUPPORTED GOVERNMENT AS PROMISED, WHILE 13 SOCIAL CREDIT MEMBERS VOTED WITH CONSERVATIVES.

2. PRIOR ASSURANCES THAT NDP WOULD SUPPORT GOVERNMENT TOOK SUSPENSE FROM SESSION, BUT DEBATE WAS NOISY AND ACRIMONIOUS. PC LEADER STANFIELD WAS UNUSUALLY HARSH IN CRITICISM OF PRIMIN TRUDEAU AND ENERGY MIN MACDONALD FOR "BRACH OF WORD" IN REVERSING DECISION TO LIFT PRICE FREEZE. NOTING THAT MORE THAN HALF OF LIBERAL MEMBERS COME FROM QUEBEC, HE SAID GOVERNMENT SELLING OUT ITS OWN SUPPORTERS IN ALLOWING

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PRICE DIFFERENTIALS BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN CANADA.

NDP LEADER LEWIS, FREQUENTLY INTERRUPTED BY CONSERVATIVES, CLAIMED THAT "NDP HAS WRUNG FROM THIS GOVERNMENT AN OIL POLICY IN DIRECTION OF CANADIAN INTERESTS", AND ACCUSED PC'S OF PUTTING CONCERNS OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AHEAD OF CANADIAN INTERESTS.

3. SUCCESS IN NON-CONFIDENCE VOTE ASSURES TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT OF CONTINUATION IN OFFICE AT LEAST UNTIL FEBRUARY, WHEN THRONE SPEECH, ADDRESSING GENERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM FOR 1974 IS EXPECTED. PC OPPOSITION IS INCREASINGLY RAUCOUS IN COMMONS, AND, PC SOURCES TELL US, CONFIDENT THAT GOVERNMENT IS ON WRONG TRACK AS REGARDS ENERGY. IF, INDEED, RISING PRICES FOR FUEL CREATE HARDSHIP IN DEPRESSED AREAS OF QUEBEC, PC'S WILL BE QUICK TO CAPITALIZE ON IT. PC LEADERSHIP BELIEVES PARTY HAS SOLID CHANCE OF WINNING AS MANY AS 20 QUEBEC SEATS AND IS MAKING MAJOR EFFORT THERE. THOUGH TRUDEAU SPEAKS OF GOVERNMENT CONTINUING UNTIL 1976 OR 77, THE PC IS OBVIOUSLY GEARING UP FOR ELECTIONS IN 1974.
JOHNSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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